



AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION MAY-AUGUST 2026
HMD 415 HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH

Date :12th AUGUST 2026

TIME : Two (2) Hours Start-----5:30PM-----End.....7:30
PM.....

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- 1) This exam is out of 70 marks
- 2) Section-A is compulsory with a Total of 30 Marks
- 3) Answer any TWO (2) questions in Section B

Read carefully the additional instructions preceding each section.

SECTION A: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS (30 MARKS)

1. Explain the concept of Health Systems Research (HSR) and distinguish it from clinical and epidemiological research. (5 Marks)
2. Outline five importance of systems thinking in improving health outcomes. (5 Marks)
3. Explain the relevance of the five key concern areas of Health Systems Research in health service delivery. (5 Marks)
4. Highlight five reasons why Health Systems Research is important in strengthening health systems. (5 Marks)
5. Explain the relationship between Health Systems Research and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in the health sector. (5 Marks)

6. Highlight five major milestones that have contributed to the development of Health Systems Research from 1967 to the present day. (5 Marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS (40 MARKS)

Question 7

A county government has observed persistent shortages of essential medicines and increasing complaints from patients regarding service delivery.

- a) Explain the four WHO Health System Building Blocks and their contribution to effective health service delivery. (8 Marks)
- b) Discuss three characteristics of Health Systems Research that make it suitable for investigating health system challenges. (6 Marks)
- c) Explain three ways in which Health Systems Research findings can be used to improve county health planning and decision-making. (6 Marks)

Question 8

A sub-county health management team intends to conduct a study to understand factors affecting low utilization of maternal health services.

- a) Differentiate between intervention and non-intervention study designs in Health Systems Research, giving appropriate examples. (8 Marks)
- b) Describe three data collection tools and techniques that would be appropriate for this study. (6 Marks)
- c) Discuss three ethical considerations that should be observed when conducting the study. (6 Marks)

Question 9

The Ministry of Health plans to use research evidence to guide health sector reforms.

- a) Explain four roles of WHO in advancing Health Policy and Systems Research globally and in Kenya. (8 Marks)
- b) Discuss the three importance of stakeholder mapping and engagement during the implementation of Health Systems Research. (6 Marks)

c) Explain three strategies that can be used to maximize the uptake of Health Systems Research findings in policy formulation and implementation. (6 Marks)

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